

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07
EUR-12 IO-13 NASA-01 NEA-10 OIC-02 PA-01 PRS-01
/146 W

-----140510Z 064328 /14

R 140404Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2048

ERDA HDQTRS WASHDC

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIANNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG TECH TGES

SUBJ: IRAN CONFERENCE ON THE TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

REF TEHRAN 3128

1. IMPRESSIONS EMBOFF AND CONSUL SHIRAZ ATTENDING PERSEPOLIS
CONFERENCE BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH EUROPEAN AND LDC
REPRESENTATIVES AND ADMIRAL DAVIES (DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ACDA) ARE
AS FOLLOWS:

2. DELEGATES FROM DC SUPPLIER COUNTRIES (U.K., FRG, FRANCE) ARE
VERY CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT JUST ANNOUNCED U.S. NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY
ON THEIR OWN NUCLEAR PROGRAMS. SUPPLIER COUNTRIES ARE WORRIED
ABOUT THEIR FAST BREEDER REACTOR PROGRAMS AND THEIR OWN NEED
FOR NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING AND WASTE DISPOSITION. AS AN
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EXAMPLE, THE FRG HAS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT AND HENCE NEED FOR
WASTE REPROCESSING WHICH FOLLOWS NUCLEAR PROCESSING.

3. LDC REPS HAD A MORE EMOTIONAL REACTION. THEIR FEELING
IS THAT THE PROBLEM IS CLASSIC ONE, IN THAT THE UNITED
STATES HAS ONCE AGAIN DONE SOMETHING THAT HAS AN IMPACT ON
THEIR COUNTRIES AND THERE IS NOTHING THEY CAN DO ABOUT IT.

THAT IS, THIS INCLUDES MORE THAN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY PROBLEM. ONE LDC DELEGATE SAID LDC'S WOULD PROBABLY AT LEAST TRY TO COME TOGETHER IN SOME UN FORUM AND BRING UP NEW U.S. POLICY AS THIS RELATES TO NPT, PARTICULARLY THAT PORTION OF NPT WHICH MENTIONS THEIR RIGHTS TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR FUEL, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY.

4. MANY DELEGATES ATTENDING PERSEPOLIS CONFERENCE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF SHORTAGES OF URANIUM FUEL IF U.S. POLICY IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED. BOTH LDC AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ASSERTED BOTH GROUPS OF COUNTRIES ARE GENERALLY RESOURCE POOR.

5. SOME LDC REPS AT SHIRAZ ARE TRYING TO ISSUE A QUOTE PERSEPOLIS DECLARATION UNQUOTE AS A COUNTER TO AND CRITICISM OF QUOTE LONDON CLUB DIPLOMACY UNQUOTE OF NUCLEAR SUPPLIER NATIONS. EMBOFFS TODAY OBTAINED ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS A COPY OF THE DRAFT OF THIS DECLARATION THAT IS NOW BEING CIRCULATED WITH EFFORTS BEING MADE TO OBTAIN SIGNATURES OF AS MANY LDC NATIONS AS POSSIBLE.

6. IRAN, AND POSSIBLY EITHER INDIA OR PAKISTAN, ARE REPORTEDLY

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THE DRAFTERS OF THIS DECLARATION. HOWEVER, THE PROSPECTS APPEAR DIM THAT IT WILL BE ISSUED BECAUSE OF LACK OF CONSENSUS. ONE PROVISION IN DECLARATION ASSERTS THAT PRINCIPAL MOTIVATION OF NUCLEAR SUPPLIER COUNTRIES IS TO MAINTAIN THEIR MONOPOLY OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. THERE IS ALSO A PLEA FOR MORE DIALOGUE BETWEEN SUPPLIER AND RECIPIENT COUNTRIES.

7. BOTH DC AND LDC DELEGATES AT SHIRAZ VIEW WITH REAL CONCERN ANY SUGGESTION THAT NUCLEAR REPROCESSING IS TO BE EXCLUDED FROM USG POLICY, SINCE IN THEIR OPINION REPROCESSING LIES AT THE VERY HEART OF THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE OWN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

8. INDIA REP, FOR EXAMPLE, CITED BOMBAY AREA WHERE ITS NUCLEAR POWER GENERATOR PLANTS ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE --THE MAIN ELECTRICAL POWER SUPPLY. INDIAN DEL FELT IT WAS VERY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADVANTAGEOUS THAT COUNTRY HAD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PLUS A NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING FACILITY.

9. EMBOFFS ALSO LEARNED FROM ONE AMERICAN WHO HAD JUST TALKED WITH DR. ETEMAD, PRESIDENT OF AEOI, THAT IRAN IS GETTING SOMEWHAT IMPATIENT WITH WASHINGTON CONCERNING DELAYS IN SIGNING OF THE U.S.-IRAN BILATERAL NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT. SEVERAL U.S. BUSINESSMEN AT SHIRAZ CONFERENCE ARE SIMILARLY CONCERNED. THEY FEEL THAT ABSENCE OF U.S.-IRAN BILATERAL IS RAPIDLY ERODING THEIR POSITION, LEAVING FIELD CLEAR FOR FRENCH, GERMANS AND JAPANESE. ETEMAD ALSO COMMENTED THAT AEOI WILL SOON TURN TO OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS JAPAN, IF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. IS NOT SOON CONCLUDED.

10. DURING PANEL DISCUSSION PAKISTAN REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS TRYING TO SOLVE WHAT IS BASICALLY A POLITICAL PROBLEM (I.E. NON-PROLIFERATION AND NPT SAFEGUARDS) BY MANIPULATION OF TECHNOLOGY. HIS FEELING WAS THAT THE RESTRICTION OF REPROCESSING WAS NOT A DETERRENT TO ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ON THE SAME SUBJECT SEVERAL OF THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS PRESENT ALSO INDICATED THEY AGREED WITH HIM IN THE SENSE THAT RESTRICTING ACCESS TO NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY WAS NOT AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO THE PROBLEM OF PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

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